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## SENATORS ASK PROOF THAT CUBA HAD ROLE IN INVASION OF ZAIRE

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WASHINGTON, May 26—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee asked the Administration today to produce evidence to back up President Carter's contention yesterday that Cuba had played a behind-the-scenes role in the recent invasion of Zaire by rebel forces based in Angola.

In a closed-door hearing with Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, the committee agreed to a request by Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, for a full airing of the President's charges.

Mr. Vance was asked about Mr. Carter's statement that Cuba had trained and equipped the invaders, knew about the invasion and did nothing to prevent it. The Secretary reportedly said the committee should address its inquiries to the Central Intelligence Agency, the source of the information.

### Administration Accuses Cuba

As a result, the committee decided to hear testimony from Adm. Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence, after the Memorial Day recess.

For the last week, the Carter Administration has been accusing Cuba of playing a substantial role in the invasion, even though President Fidel Castro and other Cuban officials have emphatically denied any direct or indirect involvement.

Senator McGovern, who just returned from the opening of the United Nations special session on disarmament, said that Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodríguez of Cuba had told him in New York yesterday that there was no Cuban involvement. Earlier, Mr. McGovern had been told the same thing by Cuba's senior diplomat in Washington, Ramón Sánchez Parodi.

Mr. McGovern said he was raising the issue because it was crucial for the committee to know Cuba's role in Africa and to find out whether Cuban officials or the Administration was telling the truth. He said it was important because several public figures, including former President Gerald R. Ford, were urging that the talks on strategic arms be suspended because

of Cuban and Soviet involvement in Africa.

Other members of the committee were concerned that the President was seeking more freedom of action in foreign affairs and was using the Cuban issue to argue for changes in the law.

The question of Cuban involvement in the Zaire fighting has been hotly disputed within the Administration. Some officials contend that it is impossible to prove that the Cubans did anything more than train some Katangans some time ago, in connection with their aid to Angolan forces, and give them Soviet arms.

But the Administration, in part to justify American participation in the French and Belgian airlift to Zaire, has suggested a direct Cuban role. Mr. Carter, in a news conference in Chicago, said the Angolan Government bore "heavy responsibility" for the attack launched from its territory "and it's a burden and a responsibility shared by Cuba."

### McGovern's Reaction

"We believe that Cuba had known of the Katangan plan to invade and obviously did nothing to restrain them from crossing the border," he said. "We also know that the Cubans have played a key role in training and equipping the Katangans who attacked."

Mr. McGovern, when asked by reporters about Mr. Carter's comments, said: "I don't want to say I am skeptical of what the President is saying. I recognize a contradiction when I see it."

Mr. Vance, who is having critical talks with Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko of the Soviet Union on limiting strategic arms, was before the committee to brief them on the negotiations and said nothing to reporters about the controversy over the Cubans.

### Administration Denials

In New York on Wednesday night, reporters covering Mr. Vance's trip were told that he had no specific information linking the Cubans to events in Zaire. But a State Department spokesman, Tom Reston, said today that fresh information had been received Wednesday that confirmed the Administration's contention earlier that the Cubans had recently trained and equipped the Katangans.

A highly placed official said, however, that the information available was open to different interpretations and that there

was no evidence that the Cubans had instigated the attack.

The demand by the Foreign Relations Committee for evidence of Mr. Carter's allegations provoked denials that the Administration had manufactured the concern. Although some officials remained unconvinced, others with more complete access to intelligence information insisted that the cumulative impact of the data was "overwhelming" in indicating that the Cubans had strongly abetted the Katangan operation.

"The stack of papers is three inches high," one source said, contending that if a newspaper had even one or two of the reports, "you'd run with it." The Administration, in keeping with its practice of protecting intelligence sources, refused to divulge how its information was received.

A C.I.A. spokesman said there was "very hard, recent evidence that the Cubans have been both training and equipping the Katangans."

Another official said there was no specific new evidence but that an intensive C.I.A. review of previous intelligence reports showed the Cubans had trained the Katangans, that the Russians had equipped them and that the Angolans had given them sanctuary.

"One has to assume that they all knew that the Katangans' only goal in life was to go across the border and shoot up Shaba Province from where they all had originated," the official said.

In his news conference, Mr. Carter also complained about Congressionally imposed "limitations on his power. The issue came up during Mr. Vance's appearance, and the Secretary reportedly suggested that the Administration needed a contingency fund for military assistance to friendly countries in emergencies.

### Outlook for Change

Congress in recent years has provided funds for an economic contingency fund but has insisted upon specific advance authorization for military help.

A staff study by the Foreign Relations Committee found that economic aid was barred for only two countries in Africa, Angola and Mozambique. Some other countries can receive aid if the President declares it to be in the United States' national interest. Mr. Vance would like all prohibitions by country removed so that if a country such as Angola changes policy, it can be rewarded quickly by the President without waiting for new legislation.

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